

performed including a priority for each job;

providing criteria to be satisfied in connection with the performance of each job;

on an ongoing basis selecting and activating resources based on said criteria and on said resource properties and resource statuses to accomplish said job; and,

updating the status of said resources.

#### REMARKS

The final Office Action dated December 20, 1999, has been received and carefully reviewed. Claims 2, 3, 5, 9, 11, 15, 16, and 19-31 are pending in this application. Of these claims, claim 21 is the sole independent claim. If the above amendment is entered, the application will include a second independent claim, claim 32.

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite due to the inclusion of the phrase "optionally determines" at line 11 thereof. The word "optionally" has been canceled by the above amendment. Claims 23 and 25 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. In order to simplify the issues in this case for this review and/or for a possible appeal, claims 23 and 25 have been canceled. Applicant reserves the right to include these claims in a later